



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**CHRISTOPHER GRAU**  
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
**CLAYTON E. UZELL**  
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

### MINUTES

DATE: May 2, 2018 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President  
Clayton E. Uzell, Vice President  
Mel Baher, Secretary  
Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Christopher Grau, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

VISITORS: None

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Potts followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Mel Baher to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda and to accept the agenda with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Baher, Grau, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

On behalf of the Board, Bob Potts welcomed Christopher Grau as the newly appointed commissioner representing the DAV, filling the unexpired term ending December 31, 2021. Mr. Grau was a communications/systems/network administrator in the U.S. Coastguard (Retired) and is currently the Municipal Information Technologist for the City of Rocky River.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

I attended all scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month on April. Following is a report of my activities outside of the CCVSC for the month of April 2018.

- Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for February 2018, as District Finance Officer.
- Friday, April 6-7<sup>th</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio.

- Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. I presented my membership report, as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.
- Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the March 2018 financial reports for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I presented my updated membership report, as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.
- Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – I traveled to Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS) to attend the Ohio Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve Program. Along with the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office and the Ohio ESGR, a group of 35 enjoyed breakfast courtesy of the Holland Chic-fillet, and a two-hour flight aboard a C-130H Hercules tactical cargo aircraft, which traveled to Niagara Falls and back. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a buffet lunch, prepared by the YARS Community Activity Center, winners of the 2016 AFRC Award for food operations program of the year. Following lunch, the group heard more about the 910<sup>th</sup>, ESGR and their combined mission. The entire day was a well-worth experience for me.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I completed the April 2018 financial reports for Post 80 and will be read at the meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The honor guard served funeral honor duties at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- The activities committee is planning several trips of military interest during 2018.

#### *Other Activities:*

- In February, I attended three of the four scheduled CCVSC meetings.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) monthly meeting. As finance officer, I also completed our financial report.
- The ITAM Dept. of Ohio meeting was held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at Post 1 in Lorain, Ohio. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the annual convention will be held when new officers will be elected.
- I took one veteran to the Parma CBOC to file a claim for hearing loss.
- I attended the April meeting/training for commissioners in Dublin, Ohio.

#### **Veterans Administration News – WASHINGTON**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently released a new online feature through the My HealtheVet portal that allows Veterans to access their medical images and associated study reports online. Called VA Medical Images and Reports, the feature allows Veterans with a premium account to view, download and share copies of their radiology studies, such as X-rays, mammograms, MRIs and CTs, from the VA Electronic Health Record (EHR).

#### Clayton Uzell – VFW

- April 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- April 6-7<sup>th</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio, where training was conducted on sexual harassment and prevention.
- April 7<sup>th</sup> – I also attended a testimonial dinner for VFW District 2 Commander John Frueh and Auxiliary President Kathy Correll at VFW Post 3035 in Delphos, Ohio. The dinner was well-attended. I was seated with the National VFW Commander Keith Harmon and his wife, Linda.
- April 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- April 11<sup>th</sup> – I also conducted a VFW funeral ritual service for a deceased WWII member of Post 7536. I presented the family with a flag case at Fioritto Funeral Home in Lyndhurst, Ohio.
- April 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended a VFW District 7 testimonial awards dinner for Commander Chris Zurawski and Auxiliary President Sue Poole at VFW Post 2133.

- April 16<sup>th</sup> – I attended a VFW Post 7536 general business meeting. We nominated and elected post officers and discussed the Memorial Day wreath laying and participation at Lakeview Cemetery.
- April 18<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- April 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended a testimonial for Commander Ron Ward and Auxiliary President Deb Huff at VFW Post 9857 in Columbus. They held a casino night theme.
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the VFW District 5 Conference in Cambridge, Ohio at VFW Post 2901. New officers were elected and installed. I congratulated District 5 on being 100% reported in their safety projects.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- April 28<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW District 10 testimonial for the District Commander Willie Savidge and Auxiliary President Shannon Stanley held at VFW Post 3659 in Carey, Ohio. Their theme was a sock hop and malt shop.
- I referred one client to the CCVSC for benefits/services.

#### Bob Potts – VVA

- April 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- April 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- April 6-7<sup>th</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- April 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- April 18<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- April 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 572 spaghetti dinner.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- April 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the retirement luncheon for CCVSC employee, Robert Markowitz.
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – I talked with a Navy veteran who needed information regarding veterans' benefits and what he would need to get a copy of his discharge papers.
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – I counseled a veteran regarding his claim for Agent Orange exposure as a Blue Water Navy veteran.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> – I attended the Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Jon Reiss provided board members with the 2019 Budget for their review.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to adopt the CCVSC 2019 Budget with recommended corrections.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2018-09 providing for the purchase of an ongoing maintenance agreement for the Workforce PayHub Time and Attendance System for the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years for CCVSC, expenses not to exceed \$15,000.00.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A revision to the Time and Attendance Policy has been suspended until the system is in place.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Membership registration fees for the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners are due in the amount of \$30.00 for period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Jon Reiss mentioned that the Honor Flight of Ohio has developed and funded a Virtual Honor Flight Program, but does not have the administrative capability to provide the service. Jon proposed that the

CCVSC provide a group setting and host the Virtual Honor Flight program here at the Commission. The Board was in full agreement and advised Jon to work on details and keep them informed of the progress.

An internal posting for the position of Executive Secretary was sent to staff on April 30, 2018. Letters of interest should be submitted to Executive Director Jon Reiss by May 14, 2018.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

The Traveling Wall will arrive in Parma on Wednesday afternoon, June 27, 2018. The Wall will be installed at Tri-C West on Thursday morning, June 28 and will be open for viewing at noon and then continuously 24/7 until the Wall is dissembled at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 1. The event is sponsored by American Legion Post 703 in Parma, with additional support from Tri-C West and the City of Parma.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue regarding employment.


AYES: Baher, Grau, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. 10:47 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 12:10 p.m.

In Executive Session, the internal posting was discussed and the Executive Director was instructed on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

  
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Bob Potts, President  
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Mel Baher, Secretary

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Requests for Financial Assistance/

Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Social Work Dept.:

Executive Director:

Commissioners:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Mgmt.) (216-698-2379)

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)